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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHRB #0603 1951811
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 141811Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0409
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0446
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA 4670
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1163
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0953

UNCLAS RABAT 000603

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/MAG AND EUR/RUS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [RS](#) [MO](#)
SUBJECT: MOROCCO INTERESTED IN ARMS CONTROL FOLLOWING THE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

REF: A. STATE 071326
[1](#)B. RABAT 0591 (NOTAL)

[1](#)1. (SBU) On July 10, Charge delivered the demarche on the President's visit to Russia (Ref A) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Secretary General Youssef Amrani, the number three in the Ministry. Amrani appreciated the information and was most interested in arms control issues since Morocco has worked with the United States and Russia on the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and would like to be invited to any arms control conferences (Ref B).

[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: In general, Morocco maintains a solid, balanced, and positive relationship with Russia which is growing but still limited. However, over 12,000 Moroccans have studied in Russia since 1956. In 2008, Morocco imported USD 1.58 billion worth the goods from Russia, including petroleum, iron, sulphur and cereals; Morocco exported citrus and vegetables valued at USD 180 million to Russia. Morocco welcomed 17,000 Russian tourists in 2008 and has made efforts to increase that number in 2009. End Comment.

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Jackson